

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Byron Pendleton III for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING TERRY NIEBEL'S LONG CAREER AS COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS IN CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Terry Niebel's long career as elections commissioner in Chautauqua County, New York. Terry's more than 27 years of service is a brilliant example of commitment and devotion to one's community.

Terry was first elected in April 1981 and, at the age of 28, became the youngest Republican election commissioner in New York State. Since that day, Terry has served six four-year terms, becoming the longest serving election commissioner in Chautauqua County's history.

Terry has overseen several changes over the course of his career as election commis-

sioner, including computerization of office files and election-night reporting. His expertise in election procedure, wise and fair sense of judgment, and gracious spirit will be missed in the Chautauqua County Election Commission.

Terry has been a true public servant in every sense of the word. He is a devoutly proud Western New Yorker, and his dedication to the people of Chautauqua County is commendable; his service, exemplary.

Terry Niebel's work should inspire us all to serve our communities and fellow man with dedicated hearts and committed lives. I hope that you will join me, Madam Speaker, in offering congratulations to Terry and join me in wishing Terry and his family the very best of luck and Godspeed for years to come.

COMMEMORATING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 34th anniversary of the July 20, 1974 Turkish invasion and occupation

of Cyprus. The island has been effectively partitioned since that time, and Turkey currently maintains a force of at least 30,000 troops in the unilaterally declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This is roughly equivalent to the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, where we are actively pursuing a war.

The Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus has had a tremendous impact on the lives of the Greek Cypriots. My district includes part of Chicago, home to the largest Greek population in the United States, and I have spoken to countless people who relay stories of occupation including the destruction and desecration of churches, restrictions on Greek Cypriots in the Turkish region. Recently Turkey's image was further injured after the European Court of Human Rights found Turkey guilty of human rights violations on Cyprus.

I am very encouraged by news reports stating that Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders, both of whom have publicly committed to working toward reconciliation, will meet tomorrow to discuss the possibility of restarting direct peace talks. I hope that these talks will pave the way toward true reconciliation for the people of Cyprus.